

From: Scott Purl
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

1. When I worked at a university, we were covered by the site license negotiated with Microsoft, which allowed us to not budget or buy the operating system on new PCs. However, the vendors were not allowed to sell the computer without the operating system, thus allowing Microsoft to double-bill the University.
2. These new PCs frequently had Microsoft Office "bundled" with it. We were again covered by a site license, and the vendor was not allowed to un-bundle the Office software. Double-billing again by Microsoft.
3. Separating Microsoft into two companies would probably not remedy the situation. However, requiring Microsoft to not bundle software with the operating system, and to not require bundling by hardware sellers, would probably be a good start. I would suggest 3 required operating system offerings: 1) No Microsoft Operating system, 2) Basic, 3) Deluxe with previously bundled applications (image processing, windows media player, internet explorer, outlook express, solitaire/freecell/pinball).
4. I fear that the separation of Microsoft into two or more companies would result in more monopolies.

Cheers,
Scott